‘Sky’s the Limit’ at 2017 DCHA Conference

Register today to reserve your seat

The “Sky’s the Limit” at this year’s Dairy Calf and Heifer Association (DCHA) conference, April 11-13 in Madison, Wis. Our exciting lineup offers unmatched networking opportunities and highlights the latest practices, technology and research in the calf and heifer industry.

Here’s what you’ll see at the event:

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

- Lunch and networking
- Farm tours and demonstrations featuring calf group housing and management, individual housing of Jersey calves, pre-fresh management, transition management, older heifer and reproduction.
  - Endres Jazzy Jerseys
  - Ziegler Dairy Farm
- How the dairy industry is taking the microphone back to define our values, practices and products.
  - Stan Erwine, Dairy Management Inc.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

- Breakfast in the trade show
- 7 star leadership: turn every employee into a fan, Ruby Newell-Legner, 7 Star Service
- Nutritional strategies to improve the health of pre-weaned calves and growing heifers, Dr. Michael Ballou, Texas Tech University
- Breakout sessions
  - Track A: Understanding dynamic growth of replacement heifers, Dr. Noah Litherland, Vita Plus
  - Track B: Group housing for pre-weaned dairy calves: the do’s and don’ts, Dr. Donald Sockett, Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab
  - Track C: Producer panel: light the fire through employee management, moderated by Ruby Newell-Legner, 7 Star Service
- Lunch in the trade show
- DCHA annual business meeting
- Breakout sessions
  - Rethinking colostrum: it’s more than just IgGs, Dr. Mike Van Amburgh, Cornell University
- Mixer in the trade show

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

- Breakfast in the trade show
- Animal welfare issues: present and future, Dr. Marina von Keyserlingk, University of British Columbia
- Break in the trade show
- Breakout sessions
  - Track A: New reproductive strategies and economic outcomes for dairy heifers, Dr. Joe Dalton, University of Idaho
  - Track B: Define, detect, and diagnose BRD for greater prevention and treatment success, Dr. Terri Ollivett, University of Wisconsin – Madison
  - Track C: Producer panel: developing protocols for animal handling, Dr. Michael Bolton, Merck
- Lunch in the trade show
- Calves, consumer and communication: perspectives from across the U.S., moderated by Emily Yeiser Stepp, National Milk Producers Federation
- Post-conference wet lab demonstrations, Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory

We hope you can join us for this year’s conference!

Register online at calfandheifer.org under the “Conference” tab.

For registration questions, contact DCHA at 855 400-DCHA or info@calfandheifer.org.
Are calf brushes worth the investment?

Brushes for the milking herd have become increasingly popular as dairy farmers make animal welfare a top priority. But many are wondering – are calf brushes worth the investment? Simply put, the answer is yes! Comfort measures in the early stages of life can ensure improved growth and future production.

PACKING ON THE POUNDS
Calf brushes are designed to stimulate young calves and provide a more enriching environment during their formative age. Calves provided with daily stimulation have been shown to increase weight gain and reduce stress. A University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna study showed calves petted 3 minutes a day for 14 days after birth saw an increase of 3 percent in daily weight gain over calves that were not stimulated.

While petting calves each day isn’t feasible for most dairy farmers, calf brushes provide similar stimulation to young animals to promote weight gain and productive environments.

“You don’t have time to give each animal tender loving care, so the calf brush takes the place of this interaction,” says Lloyd Holterman of Rosy-Lane Holsteins, LLC. “With our calf brush, I’ve seen a positive effect on socialization and growth of calves.”

ENDLESS BENEFITS
Increased weight gain early in life can also impact future milk production. Weight gained by calves in the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna study could translate into an increase of about 110 pounds per cow per year in future milk production.1 “Calves using the brushes are cleaner, healthier and growing at a faster pace, which can lead to higher productivity in the milking herd,” says Holterman.

In addition to promoting weight gain, calf brushes help to decrease fly and parasite stress, exfoliate skin, promote increased glandular function and increase cleanliness by mimicking natural grooming behavior.

1. Lürze, S. 2015 Stroking helps calves develop a better relationship with humans and increases weight gain.

Information provided by FutureCow, DCHA sponsor. Visit futurecow.com to learn more.

CONFESSION HIGHLIGHTS
• Presentations, breakouts, producer panels and farm tours
• Network with peer and industry professionals
• Industry-focused trade show
• Post conference WVDL wet lab, on-site

REGISTER NOW
CALL: (855) 400-DCHA (3242)
EMAIL: info@calfandheifer.org
VISIT: www.calfandheifer.org

SKY’S THE LIMIT
2017 DCHA ANNUAL CONFERENCE APRIL 11-13 | MADISON, WI

RAISE CALVES AND HEIFERS? THE DCHA CONFERENCE IS FOR YOU.

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Heifer Notes is published quarterly by the Dairy Calf and Heifer Association and distributed to all DCHA members and associated organizations through a partnership with Hoard’s Dairyman.
New Gold Standards Unveiled

DCHA Gold Standards establish calf and heifer raising benchmarks

The Dairy Calf and Heifer Association recently unveiled the new Gold Standards. The Gold Standards provide a framework for raising dairy calves and heifers, including research-based benchmarks and best management practices.

“We’re really pleased to announce the latest addition of the Gold Standards which includes both performance standards and production standards,” says Dr. Bob James. “We now have standards for growth, reproduction and health measures and we have recommendations for production practices which support those performance standards.”

James has been actively involved on the DCHA Gold Standards committee, comprised of 15 members including calf and heifer raisers, allied industry professionals and academia. These industry leaders have brought forth their expertise and dedication to calf and heifer raising to update the Gold Standards, last revised in 2011.

“Our objectives were to develop measurable standards that could support our industry and represent how we should grow heifers – that’s the performance part,” says James. “The production standards represent practices that enable us to achieve those goals – how we manage colostrum, how we house them, how we feed them.”

Whether you’re a calf and heifer raiser, veterinarian or consultant, you can use the new Gold Standards to help set goals for success.

The Gold Standards are available to DCHA members only. Visit calfandheifer.org to request a copy or become a member today!

Thank you to the commitment of our Gold Standards sponsors!

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